

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 13, please add the following paragraph before the paragraph that begins with "Fig. 4":

Fig. 3A is a perspective view of an underside portion of the container of Fig. 3;

Page 15, please delete the following paragraph in its entirety:

~~FIG. 19 shows the eighth embodiment of the present invention. This embodiment is similar to earlier embodiments in that a flexible protruding part 22 is projected obliquely from the endless portion 21. This protruding part 22 is integrally formed at its distal end with a rounded projection, while a notch 23' is formed on the obverse surface. In this embodiment, instead of having a pair of fitting ribs, the sealing element includes the notch 23'.~~

Page 16, please replace the paragraph beginning with "Now" with the following paragraph:

Now the preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings. The hermetic container in the first embodiment is constructed, as shown in **FIGS. 3 through 8**, such that an approximately rectangular door 11 is detachably fitted to an open front 9 of a front-open box type container body 1 with an elastically deformable, endless sealing element 20 interposed between so as to establish hermetic confinement. The door 11 is also referred to herein as a fitting element, while the container body 1 is referred to as a fitted element.